

caring or has as much empathy for others as Tom Watson," Mattingly said. "I think those are real traits in a leader."

Watson's term wasn't without its controversies, and his effort to seek state approval and funding for a joint partnership between the city and development firm Gulfstream Enterprises Inc. opened up a rift in the community.

The city was hoping its partnership with Gulfstream for the proposed Gateway Commons development on Kentucky 54 would allow it to receive millions of dollars in tax increment financing.

Some viewed the push as an abandonment of efforts to develop downtown, while others saw the project as the only way to get state funding for a new mixed-use events center.

The proposal prompted a lawsuit against the city and failed to pass muster with the state, but it was followed by the community backing the creation of a downtown master plan.

"You always knew where he stood," said City Manager Bill Parrish. "I've seen him as a man of great energy where you know where he comes from and he wants to get things moving. He is a man of unbounded enthusiasm."

Though not able to attend Thursday night, Commissioner Cathy Armour sent her thoughts about the mayor in a letter read by Mattingly, and wished him luck and now more time to enjoy his grandchildren.

Commissioner Candance Castlen Brake announced Thursday night that the city staff and the commission would be making a donation in Watson's name to the Daniel Pitino Shelter, an organization that he has personally supported in the past and urged the city to commit money to.

Watson counts the proclamations he has announced and the recognitions he has handed out as some of his fondest moments, which also include visits to classrooms to talk about city government and work to help open the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in the city.

"Really it hasn't been a job," Watson said Thursday night. "It's been another opportunity in my life to participate in my community."

When asked if he had any second thoughts about not seeking a second term, Watson explained that he is a "front windshield" kind of man.

"I don't like to look out the rearview mirror too much," Watson said. "But you still have that piece of you that wants to see things completed that you started. . . . It's almost like a blur, really, it went by so fast."

TRIBUTE TO DAVID STEVENS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a well-respected Kentuckian, Mr. David Stevens. Mr. Stevens's outstanding dedication to public service is truly immeasurable, as is his devotion to our Commonwealth.

Recently the Lexington Herald-Leader in Lexington, KY, published a story about Mr. Stevens. The story highlights not only the major initiatives he took as a Lexington-Fayette urban county councilman, but the keen sense of humor that contributed to his significant presence in Kentucky. Mr. Stevens's noteworthy pursuit as a public servant is a true testament of his devotion to not only Kentucky, but his loyalty to our great Nation.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. David Stevens

as a true patriot and Kentuckian whose dedication to his city will be long remembered. I further ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, Dec. 15, 2008]

MODEST STEVENS' IMPACT SEEN IN SMOKING BAN, SUNDAY DRINKING (By Michelle Ku)

David Stevens isn't exactly a household name in Lexington, but the modest man's work has had a huge impact on the city.

Thanks largely to Stevens, Lexingtonians can drink a little longer on Sundays but can't light up a cigarette inside a workplace.

Stevens, 79, leaves the Urban County Council this month after 15 years.

He has served three terms as an at-large councilman and one term as the District 5 representative. He chose not to seek re-election for his district seat.

He has been involved in many of the major initiatives in Lexington over the last 15 years.

Stevens pushed to extend the hours of Sunday alcohol sales and expanded who was eligible to sell. He helped develop the city's farmland preservation program, the Town & Gown Commission and ethics code.

But what he will be most remembered for is the passage and implementation of Kentucky's first smoke-free law. Since Lexington's was passed in 2003, 20 other Kentucky communities have enacted some type of a smoke-free law or regulation.

Stevens is probably the most significant Lexington figure, said former Vice Mayor Mike Scanlon.

"If you look at any councilman who has ever served, or any mayor who's ever served, I don't think that there's anybody who's going to leave a bigger footprint on Lexington than David Stevens."

Stevens' departure will leave very large shoes to fill because of his institutional knowledge of Lexington dating back to the writing of the city-county charter, Scanlon said. "The council changes all the damn time, but the government is going to be changing because David's leaving."

Last month, the council approved the first revision to Lexington's smoking ban.

Stevens engineered the revision, which extended the ban to all workplaces, not just those open to the public, and closed a loophole that had allowed smoking in bingo halls.

"Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights calls Lexington's law the shot heard round the world," said Ellen Hahn, director of the Kentucky Center for Smoke-Free Policy. "It was so landmark because this region, including the other tobacco states, really lagged behind the rest of the country."

Many people think the smoking ban was his biggest accomplishment while on council, Stevens said. While it certainly got the most attention, "the other things are of equal importance."

The parks master plan he worked on with former Councilwoman Sandy Shafer was important even though the city has never been able to give parks enough funding, Stevens said.

Much of his work on council was done with a vision for Lexington that's 50 years out, said Councilwoman Linda Gorton. "That was obvious when he helped write the charter and helped with merger. It will take that long for much of his beautification efforts on the city's corridors to grow."

In addition to the legislation he sponsored, Stevens will be remembered for his dry wit. He has a penchant for delivering a well-timed one-liner.

For example, during Stevens' final budget and finance committee meeting last Tuesday, the council discussed the city's projected budget shortfall in the next fiscal year.

"I will be happy to forgo any salary for next year," Stevens said to a round of chuckles.

Stevens plans to remain active in the community and city government despite his retirement from the council.

He wants to continue his work on the corridors committee, including a project to add sidewalks to Tates Creek Road from Lakewood Drive to New Circle Road. Neighbors are opposed to the idea.

"I'm determined to get those sidewalks down Tates Creek," he said.

Also, he wants to complete a project he began several years ago to document discussions that took place on the commission that drafted the city's charter. He had the audio tapes from those meetings transcribed, but still has to review the tapes to identify the speakers, he said.

Outside of city government, Stevens will continue on as the president of the Blue Grass Council of the Boy Scouts of America and board chairman of the Kentucky Blood Center. He also wants to finish fund-raising for a children's garden at the Arboretum on Alumni Drive.

His one regret while on the council was not pushing as hard as he could have for a dedicated tax for the parks department. When parks explored the idea six years ago, Stevens was running for his third term as an at-large councilman.

"I thought if I spent all my time working on the parks referendum, I might not get re-elected," Stevens said. "I feel kind of bad about that. I let the people in the parks down."

Being on the council is a lot like playing a game of golf, Stevens said.

"When you play a game of golf, you're only going to hit three or four perfect shots out of the 70 in every round," he said. "It's the same on the council, you know, you're not going to hit every one just right."

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

REMEMBERING DR. SHUKRI KHURI

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Shukri F. Khuri who, until he passed away last September 26 from a brain tumor, was one of Massachusetts' foremost physicians and a true public servant, contributing especially to the health care of our veterans.

Dr. Khuri was born in Jerusalem in 1943, and fled with his parents in 1948 to Syria, later settling in Lebanon. He graduated from American University of Beirut, where he met his wife Randa, and also completed medical school at the university. He then completed his surgical training at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

Dr. Khuri was remembered for the extraordinary way he answered the call to public service. He refused lucrative offers to join private surgical practices, and chose instead to combine his